

Item available for public inspection in the Clerk's office during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM)

January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

**Item #9d. - Public
Comments From Jennifer
Sarten, Sheri Pueblo, and
Zack Ranch**

Hello Rhonda,

I wanted to express my support for the approval of the MOU with White Mountain Fire Protection District (WMFPD).

Not renewing the MOU with WMFPD not only would this be a dis-service to the community it would also and be catastrophic.

Fire Chief Dave Doonan has been instrumental in making WMFPD what it is today. The Communities of Benton and Hammil Valley are well aware of the improvements made to WMFPD and the life saving BLS/ALS services that are provided.

Having served on the WMFPD Board and being married to one of the volunteers (Captain, Engineer, EMT, Wild Land Fire Fighter) I am well aware of what our Fire Department has done and continues to do for this community and for people who are traveling through our area.

Many lives have been saved by our brave Volunteers. Unfortunately our Volunteers have seen extreme tragedy along the way. This has not stopped them from continuing to respond to a call no matter what time of day or night.

On January 6, 2024 WMFPD hosted a Community Dinner held at the Benton Community Center. Fire Chief Dave Doonan did a presentation showing the community what WMFPD has accomplished in the past year.

He also explained the MOU that is up for approval.

You were able to see for yourself the outpouring of support from the community that night for the services provided by WMFPD.

The continued support from Mono County to WMFPD is a matter of life and death as far as I am concerned. I want to thank the Board ahead of time for their continued support.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sarten

Public comment for the 1/9/24 Board meeting agenda item regarding the MOU with the White Mountain Fire District EMS as follows:

To the Mono County Board of Supervisors,

My husband and I are members of the White Mountain Fire department as EMT's and my husband is an Engineer on the fire engines since 2019. We have lived in this district for 16-18 years, but lived in Mono county also prior to then. The program that Chief Doonan has developed has brought about very skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated members. Our small department boasts 3 Paramedics and 9 EMTs out of our 16 department members. One of the reasons people stay involved is the motivation of a team and learning environment. These volunteers provide essential and potentially life-saving services to our district residents, travelers and mutual aid to surrounding areas. Living in a rural area this response can mean the difference between life and death, as well as community confidence to be able to call for skilled and timely help. If this help is no longer available from White Mtn EMS then this district would have to rely on EMS from out of area and much longer response times and potential preventable losses would occur. We responded to over 500 EMS calls in the last 6 years.

I cannot say enough about how important the support for this vital service is to this district of Mono county residents. This would allow further training, member recruitment, supplies and upkeep of these services and personnel.

I would also like to thank the Board for their past support of our program and taking us seriously as we have a motivated and skilled group of people willing to help provide these services with the support we need.

Respectfully,

Sheri Pueblo

Hammil Valley, CA

Hi Rhonda,

Thank you for bringing to our attention item 9D for tomorrow's BOS meeting.

Farming is the largest employer in the Tri-Valley and it is one of the most dangerous job categories according to OSHA. Zack Ranch employs over 19 farm workers in Hammil Valley. I think it is critical that there continue to be life support services provided by WMFPD to support our residents and farming community. Before first responder services were started by WMFPD, the average response time was over 55 minutes. It is now down to 17 minutes. It goes without saying that those minutes are critical. We greatly appreciate Mono County's continued support of the WMFPD's first responder service for our community.

Thank you very much for your support. It means a lot to this community.

Peter Stickells

Manager

Zack Ranch